THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Wheat Frontline Demonstrations conducted over past five years have revealed a considerable yield gap which is as under:-

State	Current Area 2003-04 (,000 ha)	Current Yield gap (t/ha)
Uttar Pradesh	8418.0	1.346
Madhya Pradesh	2831.8	2.071
Rajasthan	2103.1	1.646
Bihar	1483.0	1.196
Haryana	2303.0	0.581
Gujarat	660.7	0.714
Maharashtra	581.1	0.654

(b) to (d) with the adoption of avaible technologies and ensuring the availability of quality inputs, timely sowing, efficient imput management alongwith policy incentives and market support etc., the yield gap can be bridged considerably resulting into higher production of wheat.

The States have been senitized for enhancing productivity by timely sowing and optimum use of inputs, For popularizing the improved package of practices amongst the farmers, 48,000 quintals quality seeds of improved varieties of wheat have been allocated to various States during 2006-07 to conduct demonstration at farmer's field by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Assistance to Madhya Pradesh under NHM

†1056. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been submitted by the Madhya Pradesh Government for approval under the National Horticulture Mission; and

(b) whether approval has been accorded and if not, by when, it would be accorded?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Annual Plan for 2006-07 submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for implementation of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) programme was approved for Rs. 7427.10 lakh by the Executive Committee of NHM on 28.06.2006.

Ensuring a minimum income for farmers

†1057. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to ensure a minimum income for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons the hesitation in taking steps by Government according to the suggestions made by the National Commission on farmers regarding upliftment of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The enhancement of income, alongwith production and productivity, of farmers in a constant endeavour of the Government. Apart from implementing several schemes such as Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), Macro-Management, Micro-Irrigation, etc., for enhancing productivity of major crops with a view to improving the income levels, remunerative prices to the growers for their produce are also ensrued through Minimum Support Prices (MSPs). The SMPs are fixed, on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for foodgrains, oilseeds, jute, copra, tobacco. Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) is fixed for sugarcane.

The recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers are under active consideration of the Government.

National Livestock Policy

†1058. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.